

SENATE BILL 2225

By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 211, relative to solid waste disposal.

WHEREAS, the 2015-2025 Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan established by the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation includes as Objective 4: Increase Diversion of Organics; and

WHEREAS, organic waste is a major portion of the waste stream, totaling sixty-one and seven tenths percent (61.7%), with food waste comprising fourteen and a half percent (14.5%), paper and cardboard comprising twenty-seven and four tenths percent (27.4%), yard waste comprising thirteen and a half percent (13.5%), and wood waste comprising six and three tenths percent (6.3%); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Conservation is considering the following strategies to process organic wastes: how to increase donation of food to agencies by restaurants, hotels, and other food establishments to agencies serving the needy which are the initial steps in a food waste composting program; cost effective methods to compost food waste at public schools, universities, and businesses; and methods for aerobic and anaerobic composting including at local government wood waste processors; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-211-603, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(h) The commissioner shall supplement the state plan that was established most recent to the effective date of this act by conducting a study to define the processing of organic waste and incorporating the findings and recommendations that are derived from such study into the state plan.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.